

streets as a safety precaution. E. J. Duke and E. Parley Cliff were appointed to meet with club members to discuss the matter. It was some two years and several accidents later, however, before the poles were finally moved.

One of Heber City's leading physicians, Dr. H. Ray Hatch, became the community's mayor in the election of 1915. Chosen to serve with Dr. Hatch on the city council were G. Frank Ryan, four-year councilman; E. J. Duke, Isaac Jacobs, George M. Jorgensen and Parley A. Murdock. Later, Mr. Jorgensen moved from the city and John A. Anderson was appointed in May of 1916 to fill the vacancy. J. E. McMullin was elected recorder and Alfred Sharp was treasurer.

John A. Fortie became mayor in 1918 after winning the election the previous Fall. George Smith, Joseph A. Murdock, J. Fred Giles and Abe Turner comprised the city council, while Sylvan Rasband was treasurer and J. E. McMullin the recorder.

Taking office as mayor in 1920 was E. J. Duke. John H. Miller was four-year councilman with Moroni Moulton, George Smith, J. W. Mahoney and Andrew Murdock two-year councilmen. Douglas Giles was recorder and Elmer Murdock, treasurer.

E. J. Duke again served as mayor during 1922 and 1923 with J. W. Giles, Heber G. Crook, L. D. Greenwood and J. Claud Hicken as members of the council. J. E. McMullin was recorder and Elmer Strong, treasurer.

In the election of 1923 J. E. McMullin won the mayoralty race, fulfilling a long time dream. While still a young man he had developed a desire to some day lead the affairs of the city.

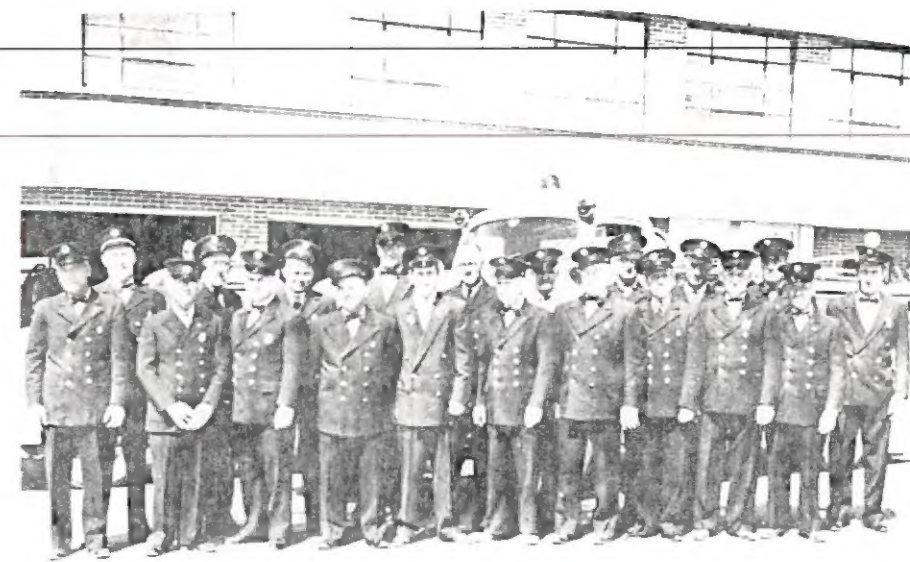
"When in my early teens," he wrote, "and attending Central School. I had a deep desire to become Mayor of Heber City someday. I was so impressed with the idea I even chose my councilmen."

When he actually became mayor in 1924, two of his councilmen were among those he had previously considered. They were Jesse R. Nelson and J. W. Giles. Other councilmen were John H. Miller, Albert Dickson and T. Henry Moulton. J. Sylvan Rasband was recorder and Elmer Strong, treasurer.

During his first term, Mayor McMullin spearheaded the drive to organize the Heber Volunteer Fire Department. The area's first motorized fire engine was purchased in 1924 and "initiated" at a fire on Sept. 17, 1925, when hay, grain and straw belonging to Thomas, Erwin and Don Rasband began to burn in a field on the Charleston Road. The fire started from a spark from a threshing machine.

On Sept. 21, 1925 the city council passed an ordinance creating the official fire department and providing for fire inspection. The council also hired John Barnes at \$15 a quarter to sound the fire siren each morning at 7 a.m. as a time regulator.

The first members of the fire department included Frank W. Hardy,



Members of the Heber Valley Fire Department in 1958 included the following: From left to right, Arvel M. McAfee, Frank Hardy, Arch Buys, Douglas Smith, Mont Giles, Ray Wright, William Turnbow, Harvey Bronson, Don Smith, Verl Wright, Earl Smith, Hylton Burch, Neff Thomas, Neil Montgomery, Rolland Carlile, Lynn McKnight, Forest Dayton, Richard Jones, Owen Buell and Glen Jensen.

William Horner, Abram Hatch Jr., William Murri, Rudolph McKnight, Francis Moulton, Earl Smith, Virgil Fraughton, A. D. Buys, Earl Clyde, Joseph Hylton and Mont Giles, all on a volunteer basis. Others who joined soon after the organization was formed were Lee Holdaway, Forrest Dayton, Owen Buell, Joseph Olpin, Ralph Giles, Lorenzo Wootton, Walter O'Toole and Carl Duke. Mr. Hardy was appointed chief with Mr. Horner assistant chief, Mr. Hatch, captain and Mr. Murri secretary.

Four hydrants were installed on main street and 1,000 feet of fire hose was purchased on two two-wheeled trailers. One trailer was kept at the Pikes Peak Garage and the other at Moulton Garage.

By 1926 the department had grown to 16 members and the group had joined the Utah State Firemen's Association.

The second fire truck, a 500 gallon Maack pumper was purchased in 1935 as a cooperative venture between Heber City, Midway, Charleston and the county commission. The department's name was changed to the Heber Valley Volunteer Fire Department, and began responding to fires anywhere in the valley.

Mr. Hardy served as chief for 13 years and was succeeded by Lee Holdaway in 1937. Earl H. Smith succeeded Mr. Holdaway, and then in 1946 Mr. Hardy again became chief and served until 1959 when Neff Thomas was appointed. Assistant chiefs have included William Horner, Forrest Dayton, A. D. Buys, Mont Giles and Arvil McAfee.

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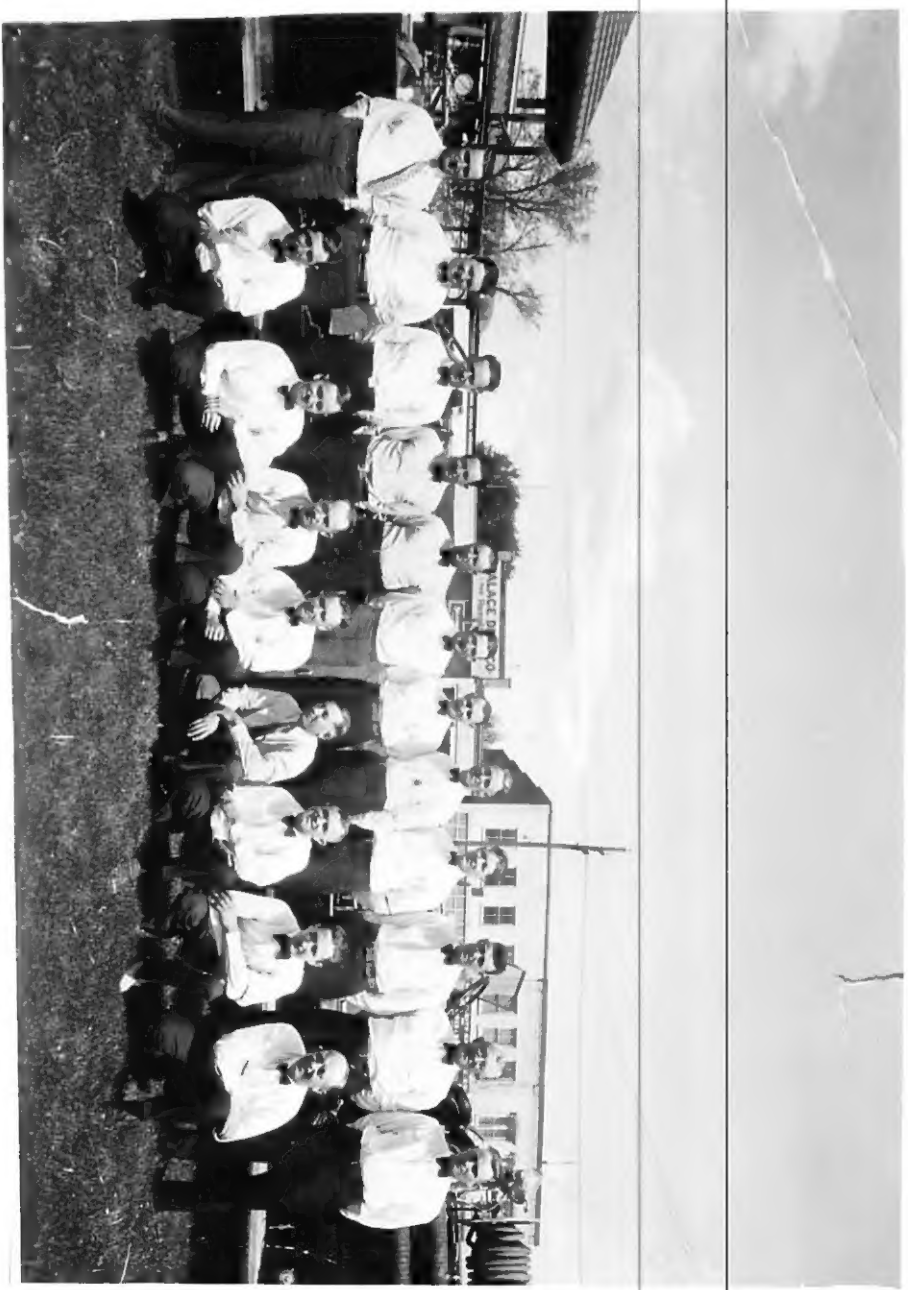
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Five Chiefs In Heber

With four former fire chiefs and one more just installed, Heber ought to have the best fire protection in the state. Former chiefs are, from left, Earl Smith, Frank Hardy, Neff Thomas and Lee Holdaway. Present chief is Arvel McAfee, right. The five men were honored at a special Chinese dinner attended by other members of the volunteer unit.



Volunteer Firemen Receive 25 Year Pins

19 June 1986

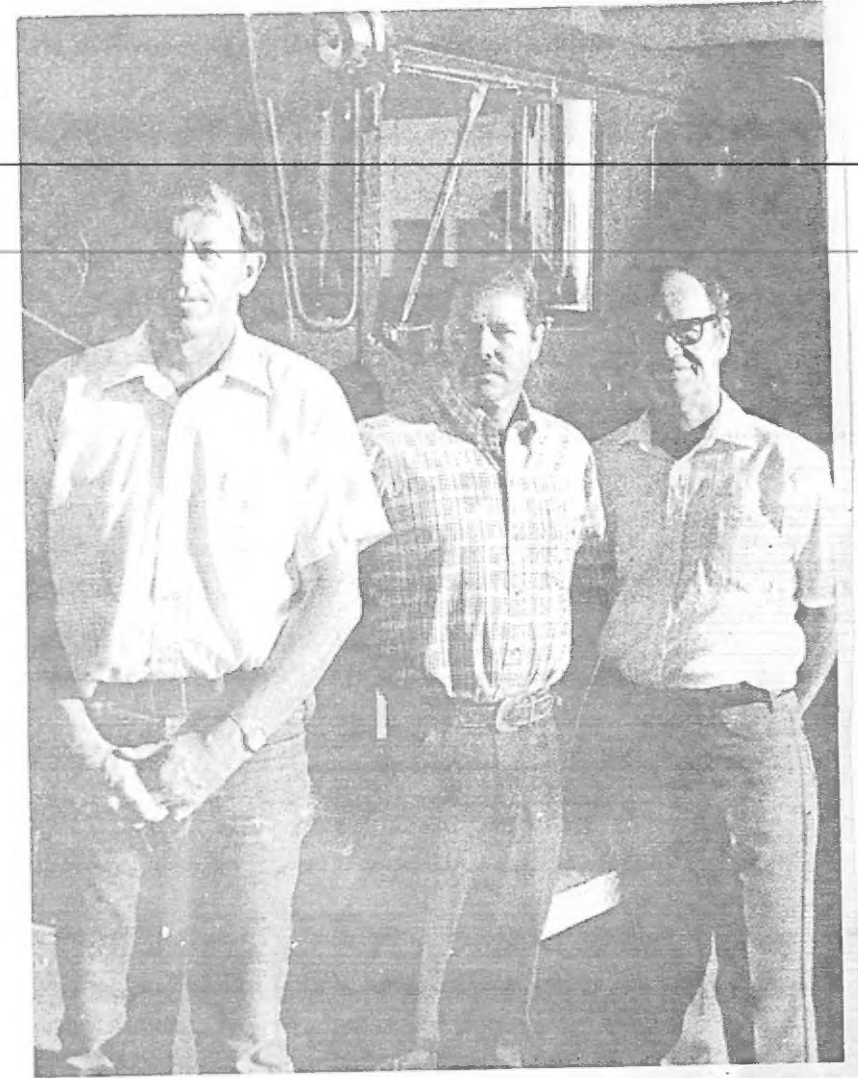
Wasatch County volunteer firemen Dean Moulton, Paul Probst and Ren Provost were awarded pins for 25 years with the fire department at the annual State Firemen's Convention, June 13, in Springville, Utah. Moulton is the Wasatch County Assessor, Probst is a barber in Heber City and Provost, who was Fire Chief for five years during the 70's, works at Wasatch Auto Supply.

Wasatch County is proud of its volunteer fire department. Despite the fact that the men are called out of sound sleep at two in the morning, away from jobs, or in the middle of a church service, their average response time to the site of a fire is about two minutes in Heber and five to Midway. Part of the reason for such quick response is that many of the men live and work within a few blocks of the fire station. But, they also deserve credit for their personal dedication. Probst is usually the first to a fire, according to the other two.

Although the number of volunteers in the department has not increased in the past 25 years, the equipment has been updated. There was one pumper and one small truck then. The small truck has been replaced and a new pumper was purchased a few years ago.

Wasatch firemen are called to about fifty fires a year. They review their skills and learn new techniques in annual training sessions. A couple of years ago the department purchased beepers for the men to carry, to let them know when they're needed, and their protective clothing has been updated through the years. Wasatch County's fire department is as well-equipped as any in the state.

But, most important are the men who fight the fires. Wasatch County citizens appreciate Moulton, Provost and Probst for their 25 years of dedicated service.



Ren Provost, Paul Probst and Dean Moulton (left to right) have served Wasatch County as volunteer firemen for 25 years.

↑
Barber

Wasatch without money for fire protection

By SONNI SCHWINN

Wasatch County Correspondent

HEBER CITY — The Wasatch County Special Fire Protection District, which assumed responsibility for countywide fire protection on Jan. 1, doesn't have enough funds to operate, according to Midway Mayor Gene Probst, chairman of the district board.

And Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall, a member of the board, accused the county of usurping the power of the district's governing board.

Probst told the county commission last week, "It looks to me like we have a \$50,000 to \$60,000 shortfall in the budget and I don't know how to reconcile that. We can operate for eight or nine months, but then I don't think the Good Fairy's going to come

along and continue to pay the bills.

"I think it's proper to open the budget and get enough money in this department to make it run. Otherwise it will fail."

Although the commission had considered funding the district with monthly payments from the cities until the district's tax levy goes into affect next summer, the plan now is to fund it with tax anticipation bonds, to be repaid when the taxes are collected.

Commission Chairman Lorin Allred, who represents the county on the board, suggested that benefits paid to the volunteer firemen could justifiably be cut, especially since more firemen may be added from Wallsburg and Midway.

The problem is that the new district

had been given the same amount of money to work with as the previous fire department but will have expenses the previous fire department didn't have to pay. They include \$25 per month to each board member, an \$18,000 payment for an engine leased a year ago by Heber City when it was in charge of the former fire department, secretarial costs formerly absorbed by the city, and the costs of a contract with Duchesne and Summit Counties to answer calls to fires in outlying communities which the county department can't effectively respond to.

Commissioner Pete Coleman suggested that the board discuss a "more realistic budget," the secretarial needs, and an equitable arrangement to compensate firemen, possibly with a reduction in their insurance coverage and that Probst report back.

Addressing the Heber City Council the next day, Mendenhall said busi-

ness transacted at the board's first meeting, Dec. 21, isn't valid because the members had never been sworn in.

He said the county is purchasing a used fire truck to rebuild and locate in Wallsburg, and that he disapproved, pointing out that should be up to the board.

He said the county had taken away the authority of the board by setting the tax rate and budget, making a commitment to Summit and Duchesne Counties, and arranging to obtain used fire engines to be rebuilt and stationed around the county. He said those were the responsibilities of governing board.

In addition, he said the former fire department had successfully traded services with the Park City and South Summit fire departments for more than 20 years, without cost to either, and that arrangement could have continued.

He said Probst had asked what he

intended to do with a \$68,000 grant the city received last May for a new fire engine and that he responded, "I'm going to put it right down there in our garage for the benefit of Heber City."

He told the council that if the county gives each community its own money to arrange its own fire protection, it should do the same for Heber.

Councilman Scott Wright said he hoped the Heber representatives could, "have enough gumption at the next (board) meeting to put things right. If the other people have any brains at all, they'll have to see the writing on the wall. I think the advantage we have is that we can always pull out of the district."

Mendenhall conceded two days later, in a private interview, "I think eventually everything will get straightened out. We can lease (the new engine to the district), let them use it, or whatever. (But) we will own it."

Fire Budget Approved

2-10-88

The Wasatch County Commission last week approved a \$123,000 budget for the Fire Protection Special Service District for 1988. The levy for the district was set at two mills, which will total approximately \$106,000.

The district's governing board proposed a budget of \$129,000 and will have to make some cuts.

Commissioner Coleman voted against the amount because he thought it should have been at least \$125,000. He said to maintain the present liability insurance on the equipment would cost \$10,000 and the coverage will have to be reduced because only \$8,000 is budgeted.

He also objected to firemen who

are Heber Light and Power employees having the option of choosing health and accident insurance for their families under either the power company or the fire department.

Firemen who don't have other insurance options are covered by the fire department as their compensation. Those who are insured where they are employed receive \$2,000 a year deposited into IRA accounts by the fire department.

Commissioner Coleman said he feels power company employees should receive the \$2,000 IRA payments from the fire department and get their insurance from their employer.

Heber supports fire district

4 June 1987

By SONNI SCHWINN

Wasatch County Correspondent
HEBER CITY — After almost a year of debate and discussions about a fire district in Wasatch County, Heber City has joined the other cities in supporting a county-wide district. Although the city councilmen recently voted unanimously for the proposal, they had reservations about it.

Mayor Gordon Mendenhall expressed concern that the county-wide proposal could still fail, pointing out that the citizens must approve it in an election. If they don't approve, he wants to be sure the city can proceed with a fire

district, this time restricted to the city limits, he explained.

He pointed out that the city has acquired about \$70,000 to buy a new fire truck, owns the fire house, and has enough equipment to protect the city more cheaply than under the present arrangement. He said, "We shouldn't for-

feit our position unless we're sure (the county proposal) will fly."

Currently, the volunteer Heber Valley Fire Department responds to all county fires, except a few areas which are protected by departments closer to them under inter-local agreements. It is run by the city which bills the other communities for the service.

Commissioner Clears Up Fire District Misinformation

3 Sep 1987

"There are rumors that people think the proposed countywide fire district is nothing but a big tax increase and, of course, overall that is not the case," said Wasatch County Chairman Lorin Allred. He said he wanted to be sure people understand accurate facts before the election Tuesday so their decisions for or against the proposal will be based on correct information.

"It is not an increase in

ment.

The proposed fire district will be funded by a county mill levy. Property owners in the cities will pay only once, through their county taxes. Property owners in the unincorporated areas may see an insignificant tax increase of no more than one dollar a month to make up for the loss of double payments from the city taxpayers, said Chairman Allred. "The object is for everyone to pay their fair

share for a fire district for over a year. Heber City failed last fall in its attempt to create a Heber City district because it didn't receive their support. The Heber City Council has now voted to support the county's

proposal.

However, Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall stated that if the county district is not approved by the people, the city will create its own fire district.

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Heber Trades Fire Engine for Water and Sewer Improvements

24 Feb 1988

The Heber City Council was given a choice last week of cancelling either its order for a new fire engine or its plans to improve the sewage collection system and extend water and sewage service south of the city to an area being considered for annexation. It has applied for a \$220,000 grant for the utilities.

Wasatch County Commissioner Larry Duke reported those were the two options offered by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) screening committee of the Mountainlands Association of Governments. He is a member of the committee and had just returned from the meeting where the decision was made when he broke the news at last week's council meeting. He said the committee's recommendation will be presented at the Mountainlands executive council meeting this week and is expected to be approved.

He explained, "If you do decide you want to go ahead and purchase the fire truck ... Heber City isn't going to qualify for any CDBG grant this year, as far as water and sewer extensions go. If the city decides they want to forego that grant and apply that money toward water and sewer, there's a \$47,000 buffer which could be added to the \$68,800 you got last year [for a fire engine] making a grand total of approximately \$116,000 which could be awarded."

Mayor Gordon Mendenhall objected to the decision, saying that the CDBG money awarded in 1987 had nothing to do with 1988 money. Heber City applied for money to purchase a fire engine when it was trying to form a fire protection special service district, he pointed out.

Commissioner Duke responded that he had stood up for Heber City, which the mayor acknowledged, and that the men on the screening committee are honorable men.

He reviewed the system the committee uses to rate the communities that apply and said Heber was ninth out of 13 applications and only seven qualified. "So if the committee wanted to play hardball,

they could say, 'Well, you're ninth. You don't get any money, period.

Do what you want with the fire truck and we won't even consider your application for water and sewer."

He said the fire and utility grants aren't actually tied together but that the additional money should be considered a \$47,000 bonus.

He reminded the council that if they did purchase the fire engine, it could not be used outside the city limits and said he thought that might have influenced the screening committee.

Mayor Mendenhall then asked the commissioner why he had come to the meeting to deliver the bad news.

"In the two years I've been on the Mountainlands Association of Governments, nobody knew the results of the survey you've conducted until we met at the regular meeting. I don't understand why that procedure has not been followed now, except that you're coming to us to influence our thinking. I don't think that's fair," he said.

"I didn't come to influence you. I don't care whether you buy the fire truck or put in a sewer line or what you do ... I came as a citizen of Heber, hoping my input would be of value to you as you make decisions in your city council meeting," Commissioner Duke said.

The mayor said nobody ever came to deliver the rating results in previous years and the commissioner said it was probably because they didn't live in Heber.

The commissioner then added another complication, if the city decides to extend water and sewer outside the city limits. He said the area would have to be annexed before November, 1989, the deadline for spending this year's grant, or the money would be forfeited. He left the meeting and wasn't present for the rest of the discussion.

Although the council filed the application for the grant for the fire engine a year ago, when the council was hoping to form a Heber Valley fire district, they accepted a bid for the engine two weeks ago, even

though a countywide fire district has been organized, as mandated by the voters.

Even so, Mayor Mendenhall has continued to promote the idea, apparently supported by the council, because he doesn't expect the district to succeed and because Wallsburg and Midway may succeed in getting their own fire engines. He has said that if they get their own fire departments, Heber should also have its own.

However, Wasatch County Commission Chairman Lorin Allred, in a separate discussion, said the idea was to have scattered fire stations within the district and subject to its bylaws, like fire departments in large cities, not separated fire departments.

Councilman Wayne Clegg said the county isn't big enough for two fire departments, but that he does share the mayor's objections to the county commission setting the budget for the district's governing board.

Then he said, "I can't see Heber City buying a fire engine and keeping it parked here just for the use of Heber City."

Mayor Mendenhall said the engine could be leased to the district, repaying the city for approximately \$20,000 that would have to be paid in matching funds for it. "They're never going to get enough money to buy a piece of equipment, because there's not a dime in [the district budget] for replacement, enterprise fund or equipment."

Councilman Keith Jacobson said that, as he understands it, the engine couldn't be leased because the city can't make a profit from it. "I don't know that it's proper to spend that kind of money for a truck that cannot be used anywhere but right here. I would think the board could stop Wallsburg or Midway from having what they want ... I guess if and when something like that happens, when the district fails, Heber City could do whatever they need to do at that time to create a district -- if we have to lease a truck."

Councilman Scott Wright said that, according to Homer Chandler, director of Mountainlands, if the truck is purchased, it must be housed in Heber City, maintained by the city, and used primarily inside the city limits, except in an emergency.

Councilman Lincoln Rasband said, "I feel that the fire district was a step in progress to get away from double taxation ... Why get right back into it? I don't know whether it will go or not. I feel that, inasmuch as Heber City is not in the firefighting business at the present time, it would be like me buying a new saddle for a horse I don't have," he said.

Councilman Bob Morris urged the council to stand behind the district and not to take any action unless it does fail.

"There's skullduggery going on down there somewhere [at Mountainlands]," Mayor Mendenhall said, "to protect the faux pas the county has done on this fire district. They

don't want us to secure our position

"I don't think we ought to have two fire departments, but you're going to have five fire departments before you get done, of one type or another."

"To finance Midway or Wallsburg, that's bull," Councilman Jacobson said. "Those people are nowhere big enough to ever need financing [for their own fire protection] in the next 20 years."

Councilman Clegg reported that the district board had recently turned down Wallsburg's request for funds for a building to house a fire truck.

After the council voted unanimously to cancel its order for a fire engine for now, the discussion returned to the subject of the water and sewer improvements, and annexation plans.

If more people can be added to the sewage collection system, it would lower costs for the rest of the users, Mayor Mendenhall pointed out. "It was the purpose when we spent all that money to build the sewer plant, that we'd pick up these areas, where they could be provided sewer and water rather to continue with septic tanks."

Eleanor Duke, city recorder, said she doubted that Mountainlands could dictate annexation policy and attach it to the sewer and water grant, because the local policy is that an area within a half mile of the city has a year to annex after being accepted for into the utilities systems.

The mayor said, "I think there are too many bitter feelings about the fact that Heber City wanted to organize a fire district, and the county and Midway and Charleston and those people still resent us for trying to do something they think they should have done ... I don't know why we should sit around and let the county dictate their policy to us. There's something in this situation that doesn't add up."

"To take money from this grant ... something that's been in place for a year, and make another deal contingent upon that and upon annexation ..."

Both Councilmen Morris and Clegg had expressed second thoughts about the water and sewer extensions after first giving full support, because some constituents had objected to using public money to solve the problems of private citizens. Now they explained that the main question was whether or not the mobile home park in the area would be able to hook up to the systems at reduced rates.

The council decided to review the rates before extending the utilities but agreed that sewage problems within city limits is a priority.

There was a unanimous decision not to return the \$68,800 fire engine money.

Another motion, proposed by Councilman Rasband, "To give the mayor support to go down there and read the riot act to Mountainlands about making it contingent on our fire engine money, whether or not we get the sewer funds," passed unanimously.

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24 Feb 1988

Wasatch County Commits To Fire District Proposal

24 Feb 1988

The Wasatch County Commission last week accepted the apparent low bid of 6.5 percent interest on approximately \$100,000 in tax anticipation notes, submitted by Zions First National Bank, to fund the county fire protection special service district 1988 budget. They said they would open the county's general budget for the \$23,000 balance necessary to meet the district's budget. They have set a two-mill levy to support the district.

However, Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall told the city council the following night, "I'll bet five bucks, to anybody that wants to take it, that the present fire district fails. And it's all going to come about because of financing ... I made a mistake joining that thing [the district]. I should have let it fail, just like they let us fail. If they'd gone along with what we suggested, and included Wallsburg, we could have handled that.

"Our fire department is not properly equipped. Even though we're renting a piece of equipment, we've got a La France (engine) that'll fall to pieces just like the Van Pelt did."

Heber City tried to form a Heber Valley Fire District, excluding Wallsburg, several months before the county formed its district, but

couldn't get the required support from the county commission and the other city councils.

Councilman Bob Morris said, "It would be my hope that we could unite behind the fire district and give them a chance to function. If, and when the time comes that they don't and can't, and they fall flat, then we'll have to take appropriate steps, as necessary. But I think they ought to have a chance."

The other councilmen voiced similar support during the meeting.

Last week the councilmen learned that their application for a Community Development Block Grant, to improve the sewage collection system and extend both sewer and water south of the city limits, had been made contingent on cancelling their order for a fire engine with last year's \$68,000 grant. They unanimously voted to cancel the engine. They also unanimously voted against returning the money until they see if the fire district succeeds or not. They have until next November to make a final decision on the engine.

Councilman Scott Wright said he voted "nay" because, "I don't think the decision that we make, on whether we're going to buy a fire

Continued on Page 2A

District Proposal

24 Feb 1988
Continued from Page 1A

truck or not ... should influence the decision to give grant money to Heber City for a water and sewer project."

The mayor said one of the reasons he believes the fire district will fail is that Wallsburg and Midway may succeed in their bids to get a fire truck in each of their communities. The reason he has given for wanting a truck in Heber is that, if other communities get their own fire departments, so should Heber. "Everybody's paying taxes now [into the district] and everybody will want their [own]."

However, in a telephone interview, County Commission Chairman Lorin Allred said they would not be separate fire departments, but additional fire stations which could respond quickly to fires in their areas. He noted that, although there may be only one fire department in a large city, there may be many stations located at strategic points within it.

In a separate interview, Wallsburg Mayor Lyle Davis said the

city had arranged to lease one of the fire district pump trucks and had a commitment for between \$2,000 and \$2,500 from the district governing board for materials to construct a building, with donated labor, to house it. He also said grant money was available to train firemen.

However, Midway Mayor Eugene Probst, chairman of the district board, said, "That's not so. He doesn't have a contract with anybody and we're not giving him a dime until the money's available."

Chairman Allred said the state has given some pump trucks to the county which may be put in Wallsburg as a "first responder". He said he also knows of at least one used fire engine, in excellent condition, which could be purchased for about \$7,000.

One problem has been that the previous fire department set no money aside in its budget for adding or replacing equipment. The new fire district budget does allow for new items; but there hasn't been time to accumulate money for any major purchases.

Wasatch Commission Report

County Gets Firefighting Equipment

18 May 1988

Wasatch County has acquired a fire engine with a water cannon, hoses, and other miscellaneous firefighting equipment in excellent condition, according to Commissioner Chairman Lorin Allred. He said it was "basically free," from state and federal agencies.

He reported that the Fire District Board discussed stationing the engine in Wallsburg and allowing some volunteers from Wallsburg to become firemen, with no benefits whatsoever. However, he said some of the board members say that would be discriminatory because other volunteer firemen receive health and accident insurance or ERA deposits as compensation. He asked County Attorney Steve Hansen to research the legality of the problem but to charge the board for his services.

"They've got plenty of money ... for certain things ... The county cannot carry them anymore," he said.

Mr. Hansen also pointed out that the board has the right to employ any attorney they choose and are not bound to using the county attorney.

Timpanogos Mental Health Center

A member of the Timpanogos Mental Health Center interim management team, Don Mueller, reported that all precautions are being taken to be sure no funds can be misappropriated in the future.

Commissioner Duke pointed out that the center's governing board has been increased from one representative from each of the three county commissions — Wasatch,

Summit and Utah — to include all nine commissioners. He said he didn't think the misuse of funds could have been discovered any sooner no matter how many commissioners were on the board and Mr. Mueller agreed.

Mr. Mueller said the Department of Social Services is reviewing all of its contracts in the state, not just the eleven mental health contracts.

Chairman Allred reported that Summit County is considering pulling out of the organization and setting up a separate contract, but said he hoped they would at least stay with Timpanogos until the present problems are resolved.

Fair Chairmen

Chairman Allred announced that Jim and Laurel North have been selected as co-chairmen of the

Wasatch County Fair Board.

4-H Report

Heidi Ward reported to the commission on her recent trip to Washington, D.C., representing the Wasatch County 4-H organization. 4-Hers from across the nation gather annually to exchange ideas in consulting groups and present them to the national officers to help them structure activities and projects to meet current needs. Miss Ward was assigned to the group that discussed peer pressure.

She also showed slides of her tour of the area and said she was particularly moved by the Vietnam memorial wall, which she said felt like "sacred ground."

The commissioners said they were very proud to have Miss Ward represent Wasatch County.

Commission Considers Budget; Fire Department

The Wasatch County 1989 Budget Hearing, begun during last Wednesday's Commission meeting, is continuing this week. The final budget is being approved Wednesday morning, Dec. 14.

The total revenue expected is \$3,374,144, which is \$70,000 more than in 1987, but about \$527,000 less than 1988, according to Jeff Bradshaw, Clerk-Auditor. Those figures include all taxes, licenses and permits, grants, and revenue and reimbursements from government agencies.

Most department supervisors have either formally or informally requested raises for their employees. However, most of the budgets submitted have not included significant increases. As one super-

Defending the benefits, Albert Winterrose, a fireman, said that raising the tax levy from the present .000437 to .000611 would allow the requested increase and would only cost the average homeowner about 64 cents more per year.

He said he had expected the District Board to set up a budget and that the County would set a tax levy that would provide the money needed. He didn't know a budget that had been approved by the Board could be cut by the County as it was in 1988. He said he thought the Fire Protection District was supposed to be run the same as the Districts that govern the sewer and garbage collection services, noting that garbage collection fees for

fire Department is a separate entity, and that its tax is separate from County taxes. But the Commissioners told him the District tax is included in the maximum tax limit a County can levy and that Wasatch is just about to that limit.

Coleman added that a public hearing has to be held before raising a special service district's tax rate.

Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall, who is a member of the District Board, but said he was only speaking as a citizen, told the Commission if adequate fire protection isn't provided and, as a result, a life is lost, a lawsuit against the County could bankrupt it.

He recommended that the Commission accept the budget requested by the District Board, which he called a "bare bones" budget. He also recommended that the District be "divorced" from Wasatch County, except for bonding and collecting taxes, which the District is not authorized by law to do.

He further recommended that the jurisdiction of the Fire Protection District be cut back to include only the floor of the Heber Valley.

He said residents in Wallsburg and the Heber Valley probably provide about 80 percent of the taxes in the County, so a limited Fire District could still be funded. "But, as long as we're collecting taxes from everybody in the County, we've got to provide fire protection for them," he said.

The District has contracted with

the Duchesne and South Summit Fire Departments to respond to fires closer to their firefighting equipment than to the equipment in Wasatch County. Previously, those Departments and local firemen had a gentlemen's agreement covering such occurrences at no cost, he pointed out.

Midway Mayor Gene Probst, Chairman of The District Board, supported the budget increase. "The people mandated that we run a proper Fire District, when it was voted on." He said a sufficient tax levy should have been set when the District was organized more than a year ago.

Commission Chairman Lorin Allred raised a question about the Heber Light and Power Company employees who are firemen. He said companies that provide employees for community projects do not request payment of any kind. He cited examples where firms have provided employees, free-of-charge, to help with economic development.

"If Heber Light and Power is sound financially, and could pick up those benefits and those retirements, and make those people completely voluntary, it would free up some additional money for more engine repair and planning for the future," he said.

"Heber Light and Power is furnishing seven firemen. And they're going from their work to answer any fire in the daytime now, so

Continued on Page 5B

DEITY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION managed the land. "The septic tanks out there were 55-gallon drums and all those shanty towns existed." He said the Board failed in its attempt to try to stop that kind of development. "Government finally came in and took the thing over, kicked the shanty towns out, and it's a good development." Chairman Lorin Allred added that the Commission had supported having the Forest Service manage Strawberry land, because of the Forest Service's record of "their past record of working with Wasatch County."

Christmas Bonuses

Full-time County employees and elected officials will each receive \$500 Christmas bonuses this year. The Commissioners plan to make an offer to buy the old Heber City office building, which includes the present fire department garage, and make some repairs with the first grant. Their plan is to remodel and improve the by "fire-subsid-

CDBG Funds

\$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds will be available in about a month for the County to purchase a building to house the fire engines and ambulances, according to Berg. He said he thought the County could also qualify for additional grant money in 1989.

The Commissioners plan to project of extending the fencing around the ball parks, which lessens the County's liability.

Heber City Inviting Wasatch County To Discuss Building Sale

2-8-89

The Heber City Council decided last week to invite the Wasatch County Commissioners to their next meeting to discuss the possi-

strip of landscaping in front of the building, between the street and parking area, will be reduced to 10

which the Council approved. She said the organization is nonprofit, and that the hoedown will be a fund-raiser for costumes, particularly for a show they are planning this June in Disneyland.

She said hoedowns have drawn enough people to fill two-thirds of the Wasatch County auditorium. She pointed out that people attending the hoedown would be encouraged to visit the Open House and vice versa, if the two groups worked together.

She also asked the Council to send a representative to accept a "little gift" her group would like to present to the City.

Wallsburg Lawsuit

Mendenhall reported that the City is continuing to pursue funds it alleges are owed by Wallsburg City for fire protection while Heber City was managing the former Heber Valley Fire Department. He said Wallsburg claimed Heber had never submitted receipts and other documents to back Heber's claim for \$4,400 plus legal fees. He said the information had been sent before but would be sent again.

He said Wallsburg asked to make monthly payments but Heber had already requested monthly payments

and received none, prompting the Council to pursue the matter through the legal system. Mendenhall said it wasn't fair to the entities who had paid their fire protection bills, if Wallsburg doesn't have to pay. "We may have to go to court," he said.

Flood Control

In spite of the extensive flood control construction by Heber City and Wasatch County, the project isn't quite complete, the Mayor told the Council. He said the structure to divert the water from the Wasatch Canal to the new flood channel needs to be built with steel gates.

Higgs estimated the cost at \$7,720 but Mendenhall said there is only \$5,000 left in the combined City-County flood control budget. Therefore, he said the project would have to be postponed until the money becomes available.

"That is really a vulnerable place...Temporary structures just don't work there. You've got to have something pretty substantial," he said, and Higgs agreed.

Mendenhall said the County Public Works Director, Kent Berg, estimated that the flood control channel saved the County \$25,000 last year.

City orders county to remove fire engines

8 Mar '89

By SONNI SCHWINN

Heber City Correspondent

HEBER CITY — Three Wasatch County fire engines have been evicted from a Heber City building.

Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall personally delivered a letter evicting the three engines from the garage at the old Heber City office building, effective today.

He gave the letter to Commissioner LaRen Provost Monday after the commissioners voted against buying the building for \$100,000.

During their discussion, Provost explained that the additional costs to remodel the structure to make it a suitable emergency services building made it unfeasible for the county to pay the price Heber City is asking for the building.

The mayor earlier told the

county there was an interested buyer willing to pay \$100,000. Heber City anticipated receiving the full amount and included the \$100,000 in its 1988-89 budget.

Mendenhall said he had two other potential buyers who were willing to pay the full price. However, last week he told the city council he hoped the other parties would still be interested, after waiting more than eight months for the county's decision.

The county received a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant last year to put toward an emergency services building, and another grant for \$83,000 has been approved this year. The commissioners said that is enough to buy land and construct a new building to house the county's firefighting equipment and ambulance.

Fire District Submits Counter Offer

Heber City offered to lease its old office building to the Wasatch County Fire Protection District to house its fire engines for \$500 per month plus utilities. The District proposed a counter-offer of \$500 per month, including utilities. But even if the City accepts, the County Commission has the final say on the deal because it is up to the County to provide the funds.

Unlike the sewage disposal and garbage collection districts, which operate on user fees, the Fire Protection District is funded from tax revenue. However, a district hasn't the power to set and levy taxes. That must be done by the County Commission. Therefore, although the Fire Protection District Board operates entirely separate from the County and controls its own budget, the Commission determines the tax levy and determines the total amount of the budget.

Originally the Commission set a levy which would allow the District \$108,000 for the current year, then agreed to raise it to \$134,000. However, even the higher amount did not allow for a rental payment after Jan. 1, 1989 because the Commission was considering buying and remodeling the old City Office building in which the firefighting equipment already is

housed. Therefore, the District will have to submit a revised budget and hope the Commission will agree to collect additional funds to cover the rent.

Commissioner LaRen Provost, a member of the District Board, said he would ask the Commission to open the budget and collect the additional revenue. "I think we can work it out," he said.

He also reported the County is working on purchasing property for a new building to house the fire engines and ambulance. He said he expects it to be ready by September, "if all goes well."

In presenting the City's proposal, Mayor Gordon Mendenhall said the City must sell the building. He suggested that if it is sold before the new emergency services building is finished, the District might be able to negotiate an agreement with the new owners. He also said if the District and the City couldn't reach an agreement, or if the Commission would not agree to fund a budget high enough to cover rent, "we'll terminate and each go our separate ways."

Midway Mayor Eugene Probst, Chairman of the District Board, reminded Mendenhall that he asked him specifically if the building would be for rent if the County

didn't buy it and that Mendenhall said it would not be. He said that's why no rent was included in the budget.

Provost said the County was prepared to house the fire engines in the County sheds until a new building was ready, if necessary. However, everyone agreed that would increase response time and the engines should stay where they are, for now.

Chief Jerry Davis said the District has been paying all the utilities on the building. He said the Department only uses part of the building, requiring one furnace and two lights, but that two additional furnaces, a water heater, and additional lights had been kept on during the winter months. They were all included in the Department's bills, so the District paid \$692 for January and February, even though the District budgeted only \$1,000 for utilities for the entire year. Mendenhall assured him the City would make an appropriate adjustment.

Since the District's counter offer includes utilities, the money now budgeted for utilities would go toward the rent.

Mendenhall said it would be fair to charge the District \$1,156 per month rent but, because of the

budget problems, he thought the \$500 per month plus utilities would be fair and cheap. He said the District had previously paid \$250 plus utilities for its section of the building.

Councilman Wayne Clegg said he thought the rent should be higher. Therefore, he and Mendenhall, both members of the Board, cast the only two votes against the District's counter proposal.

Notice

Wallsburg Residents

The Wasatch County Commission will hold a public meeting at the Wallsburg Town Hall to receive input from the citizens from Wallsburg on Wednesday night, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Taxpayers Support Fire District Tax Rate Increase

Wednesday, August 16, 1989 • The Wasatch Wave

The twelve taxpayers present at last week's hearing to discuss Wasatch County Fire Department's proposed 3.6 percent tax rate increase unanimously voted to support it. However, the District Board, which conducted the meeting, does not have the authority to levy taxes and can, therefore, only report the results of the meeting to the County Commission. The Commission will make the final decision on the increase.

In fact some of the Board members questioned whether it was even legal for them to conduct the meeting, since they don't have the authority to levy taxes. Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall said he wanted it to be a matter of record that he considered it an illegal meeting.

Midway Mayor Eugene Probst agreed. He said he asked the County Commissioners about the legality but didn't receive an answer. He said the Commission put the issue on the Board's agenda, so the Board apparently had been given the authority to hold the meeting. He assured the citizens that whatever the Board recommends, as a result of the hearing, will carry weight with the Commissioners when they decide whether or not to raise the tax rate.

The taxpayers who spoke during the meeting neither supported nor protested the increase. Rather, they asked questions about the Department's budget. Next year's budget won't be approved until December, but they were given copies of the current budget to look over. They

voted to support the increase after all their questions had been answered.

Probst explained that the Commission had approved a \$140,000 budget for the Fire Department and that it can't operate on any less. However, last year's tax rate only raised \$123,000 and, because of growth, will generate about \$129,000 this year, Jeff Bradshaw, the County Auditor, reported. The proposed tax increase is needed in order to meet the present budget.

The main problem is that health and accident insurance rates for the firemen went up last year. The premiums had always been paid in full until then. Now the District pays \$250 per month for each fireman's insurance and each fireman pays \$72. Probst said he was sure the insurance carrier, Utah Local Governments Trust, had the lowest cost available. Heber Councilman Scott Wright, a member of the Board, added that only a few insurance carriers will even consider covering firemen.

Another problem, Probst said, is that when the people voted to approve forming the District, two years ago, they also approved a tax levy to support it. He said at that time the tax levy should have been set at a rate that would have generated enough revenue for the district to operate. Instead, he said the tax rate set by the County Commission didn't even generate as much revenue as the previous Heber Valley Fire Department had been operating on. During the District's first year it's budget was \$112,000, which

was borrowed from the County, and was \$20,000 to \$30,000 short.

"If you don't go for what you need within a year after the mandate, you have to go back to public hearings. It's always hard to get through a public hearing and get the money you should have had in the first place. I don't suppose we'll ever get the money we really need to man the kind of Fire Department we really ought to have," he said.

The Board explained that the Department is operating on a "bare bones budget" and that there is no place they can cut expenses except in the firemen's benefits. However, the citizens highly praised the firemen and supported keeping the benefits, the only compensation they receive for their work.

Wright explained that the proposed increase is only 3.6 percent of the District's present rate, not of the entire tax levy on each property. He said it would amount to less than one dollar per year more per home.

He also said the Fire Department has never before set any money aside in an enterprise fund, to be available for new equipment, which is necessary if the system is to survive. For instance, Fire Chief Jerry Davis pointed out that the newest fire engine cost \$96,000 and that another should now be re-

placed, but there isn't any money to buy another new one. Heber Councilman Wayne Clegg pointed out that there was no money for any unexpected expenses, like a \$600 audit that was required by law, but had not been anticipated.

However, the District probably will be cutting one expense. Presently \$9,582 is allotted for contracts with Duchesne and Summit Counties to respond to outlying areas in Wasatch County. Probst said now that there is a fire station in Woodland, the contract with Summit County will probably be canceled, saving about \$6,200.

However, the current budget only allows \$1,000 for utilities. Although the County is building the new firehouse, mostly with grant money, the Fire Department will have to pay the utilities, which will be considerably more than that.

To illustrate how tight the budget has been, Clyde Montgomery, secretary of the Fire Department, reported that the firemen paid more than \$7,500 out of their pockets for department items last year, including gloves, flashlights and batteries, a hubcap for an engine, two walkie talkies, and furnace repairs. Chief Jerry Davis added that 11 firemen recently put in 16 to 24 hours each over one weekend, helping to fight a Summit County wildfire.

Friday
Feb. 2, 1990



B₁

Fire department goes up in smoke

2-2-90

DELAPLAINE, Ark. (AP) — The Volunteer Fire Department couldn't do much to fight a major blaze — it was their building and all their equipment was inside.

The fire Tuesday destroyed the building, two trucks, breathing equipment, hoses and records, Fire Chief Eddie Joe Meredith said.

"Everything we had is gone," Meredith said. "I'd cry if it would help."

He said firefighters couldn't retrieve any equipment because they couldn't get through the electrically operated doors. They broke through a wall to try to save their records, but flames beat them to the filing cabinet.

Meredith said several neighboring departments tried to save the building.

The department was building a third truck, with help from the Delaplaine High School's shop program, but Meredith said it's not ready for service yet.

He declined to speculate on the cause of the fire. He said the building was insured for \$25,000 and the two trucks for \$13,000 each.



Herald Photo/Trent Nelson

ers John Higley and Tom Augustus enter a burning trailer Thursday. No one was injured in the fire.

Lightning Causes Problems, Fortunately All Little Ones

8-1-90
The thunder and lightning that hit the area on July 23 raised a little havoc around Wasatch County, but all the problems turned out to be small ones.

First, county firefighters were called to assist Summit County with a fire just across the county line, near the old U.S. 40 highway. Lightning, with almost no rain along with it, lit the dry grasses and when it was nearly under control, high winds started it going again.

Then lightning started a fire in Wasatch County, below U.S. 40, near Mayflower. But Granite Construction Co., which is working on Jordanelle Dam, immediately moved bulldozers to the site and had already begun to fight the fire when county firefighters arrived. A sud-

den, heavy cloudburst made the rest of the job easy.

That was a good thing because, in the meantime, on Charleston Road, across from the City Park, a tree fell onto power lines, pulling a power pole partway down. Ray Farrell, Heber Light and Power, said he didn't know if the tree had been hit by lightning or if the heavy winds knocked it down.

Since most of the HL&P employees are also Wasatch County firemen, they had to leave the Mayflower fire to restore power in the Heber Valley. But by that time the fire was nearly under control.

Although the electrical wires were laying alongside the road, they had gone dead. HL&P employees, as usual, set the pole back up, re-

connected the wires, and turned the power back on quickly and efficiently—in about an hour.

About that time some rain had hit the Summit County fire, and firefighters were getting it under control.

By the time bedtime rolled around, most of the firefighters from both counties, the Wasatch County fire department, public works department, and the sheriff's office, could rest well, knowing all was well. And so could the rest of us.

Wasatch County homes served by Utah Power and Light lost power for a while on July 24, at about 9:45 p.m., because of lightning. Farrell said he saw that strike and thought at first that it was fireworks. 8-1-90

Commission Approves Fire District Tax Rate

8-24-90
The Wasatch County Commission okayed a .000437 tax rate to fund the \$123,215 Fire District budget, following a public meeting last week, during which public officials, firemen, and private citizens were allowed time to comment.

The fire department that operated before January 1, 1988, when the new district was formed, was funded under a cooperative agreement between the government entities in the county and each paid their share from general funds. But the additional tax will totally fund the fire district and the cities have not paid anything to the district since it began.

Until the 1988 taxes are collected for the district, it is operating on loans from the county. Next year it will operate on tax anticipa-

tion notes, Jeff Bradshaw, clerk-auditor said.

The main budget items are: health insurance and retirement funds for firemen, \$69,166; equipment, including payments on one engine, \$19,000; general liability insurance, \$8,000; interest, \$7,200; contracts with Duchesne and Summit Counties for fire protection in outlying areas, \$7,200; employees, \$3,000; equipment, supplies and maintenance, \$2,000.

Commission Chairman Lorin Allred, a member of the Fire Protection District Board, said the Board tried to work from the \$108,000 budget used by the previous fire department. He said they were able to get lower insurance rates for the firemen, but added the contracts with Duchesne and Sum-

Continued on Page 3A